

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all previous versions, and listings, of the claims.

- 1.-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~4~~15, wherein said subject suffers from AMD.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~4~~15, wherein said subject is at risk of developing AMD.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~4~~15, wherein the method delays the ~~AMD~~retinal or choroidal degenerative disease or condition.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~4~~15, wherein the method reverses the ~~AMD~~retinal or choroidal degenerative disease or condition.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~4~~15, wherein said cell is a photoreceptor, an RPE cell, a Muller cell, or a cell type of the choroid selected from the group consisting of an endothelial cell, a smooth muscle cell, a leukocyte, a macrophage, a melanocyte and a fibroblast.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said MT1-MMP gene or protein is located within said cell.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said MT1-MMP protein is located in an extracellular matrix.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said extracellular matrix is an interphotoreceptor matrix.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 13, wherein~~A method for treating a subject having age-related macular degeneration (AMD), comprising contacting a retinal or choroidal cell of said subject with an agent that decreases the activity of an AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related protein, wherein said protein is matrix metalloproteinase, membrane-associated 1 (MT1-MMP) and said agent is an antibody that specifically binds to a MT1-MMP protein or peptide.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said antibody neutralizes at least one biological activity of MT1-MMP.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said biological activity is activation of progelatinase A or degradation of extracellular matrix.

18-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 415, wherein the nucleic acid sequence of said AMDP-related or phagocytosis-related gene encodes a said MT1-MMP protein is human MT1-MMP, and consists of~~encoded by the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:15, or a polymorphic variant thereof.

54-56. (Cancelled)

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of a polyclonal antibody, a monoclonal antibody, a single chain antibody and an Fab fragment.

58-62. (Cancelled)